



Customer No. 26874
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Attorney Docket: END5131.0517373

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Swayze, et al. : Paper No:

Serial No. 10/673,662 : Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: September 29, 2003 : Examiner: Brian D. Nash

For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING INCORPORATING A TRACTION-BIASED RACHETING MECHANISM

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2005 and to the Advisory Action dated July 8, 2005 , please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.